

REMARKS

The above election along with the following remarks are being submitted as a full and complete response to the Office Action dated January 16, 2004 and an phone interview with the Examiner on January 23, 2004. The Examiner is respectfully requested to review the substance of Species 1 (an oligonucleotide array that does not specify whether multiple subblocks are required): Claims 1-4 and 6-10, and "stress tolerance or survival related genes" to indicate the allowability of the claims.

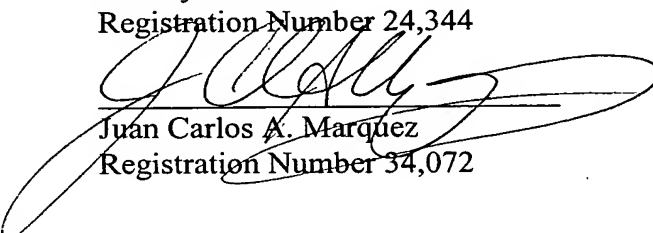
Species 1, as recited in claims 1-4 and 6-10 drawn to an oligonucleotide array that does not specify whether multiple subblocks are required and "stress tolerance or survival related genes" are being elected for this application. If further restriction is required between "stress tolerance genes" and "survival related genes," Applicants provisionally elect "stress tolerance genes." As noted in the Office Action, at least claim 1 is generic to both identified species, and to all groups within each species.

The non-elected groups and claims are withdrawn from further prosecution without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants hereby reserve the right to file divisional applications on any or all of the non-elected claims.

Substantive consideration of the elected claims is respectfully solicited. Should there be any outstanding issues requiring discussion that would further the prosecution and allowance of the above-captioned application, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicant's undersigned representative at the address and phone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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